

Image Analysis

Examining Primary Sources

Food Administration–Anti Waste Campaign–Girl War Farmers Win Praise of Farmer Who Employs Them, 1918

Image analysis plays a pivotal role in understanding and working with primary sources. As a scholar, it is your job to think through primary source images to deduce contextual understanding and extract crucial details to make informed judgments.

Directions:

Follow the best practices of image analysis below:

Step 1: Preview the image

Step 2: Observe its components

Step 3: Dissect its parts

Step 4: Conceptualize it's importance

Step 5: Use it as historical evidence

After familiarizing yourself with the image, complete the following questions:

1. Identify the image type (check all that apply):

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial/Satellite | <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural | <input type="checkbox"/> Candid | <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Portrait | <input type="checkbox"/> Panoramic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Posed | <input type="checkbox"/> Selfie | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

2. Observe the images components by visually scanning it and answering:

- Is there a title? ☐ yes ☐ no
- If so, what?

- Is there a caption? ☐ yes ☐ no
- If so, what?

- What do you notice first about the image?

3. Dissect the images parts by listing the people, places, activities, objects you see:

PEOPLE	PLACES	ACTIVITIES	OBJECTS

- Write one sentence summarizing this photo.

4. Conceptualize the importance of the image by answering as best you can:

- Who took this photo?
- Where is it from?
- When is it from?
- What was happening at the time in history this photo was taken?
- Why was it taken? List evidence from the photo or your knowledge about the photographer that led you to your conclusion.

5. Use the image as historical evidence by answering:

- What did you find out from this photo that you might not learn elsewhere?
- What other documents, photos, or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?

Image Analysis

Examining Primary Sources

Food Administration–Anti Waste Campaign–Girl War Farmers Win Praise of Farmer Who Employs Them, 1918

SUBJECT:	NUMBER
165-WW-171-19	AU
165-WW-171-19	
Gen. News Photo Ser.	
PHOTOGRAPHER	
May --1918	--1918
REC'D	TAKEN
DESCRIPTION:	
GIRL WAR FARMERS WIN PRAISE OF FARMER WHO EMPLOYS THEM.	
<p>"The best help I've ever had," is the way farmer Hankinson of Mercer, N.J. describes the contingent of farmerettes of the Women's Land Army of America who has been working on his land for five weeks. The young ladies most of them are college trained girls answered the call of farmer Hankinson for girl farm hands, laid down their books, or forsook the drawing room and started on the trail to the farm. Dressed in overalls and leggings old shoes and broad brimmed hats, the city girls successfully attacked the problems of spring life of the farm from chopping wood and pruning trees, to milking cows.</p>	
(continued on reverse)	
ISSUED:	NOTES:



National Archives

Image Analysis—KEY

Examining Primary Sources

Food Administration- Anti Waste Campaign- Girl War Farmers Win Praise of Farmer Who Employs Them, 1918

1. Identify the image type (check all that apply):

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial/Satellite | <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candid | <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Portrait | <input type="checkbox"/> Panoramic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Posed | <input type="checkbox"/> Selfie | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

2. Observe the images components by visually scanning it and answering:

- Is there a title? ☒ yes ☐ no
- If so, what? 165-WW-171-19
- Is there a caption? ☒ yes ☐ no
- If so, what? Girl War Farmers Win Praise of Farmer Who Employs Them
- What do you notice first about the image?
It is a historic photo taken in black and white.

3. Dissect the images parts by listing the people, places, activities, objects you see:

PEOPLE	PLACES	ACTIVITIES	OBJECTS
Woman with braided hair	Outdoors	Log cutting/sawing	Handheld wood saw
Woman with hat	On a farm	Farming	Downed trees
Farmerettes	In the forest	Wood gathering	Cabin/ wooden structure
Women's Land Army	Mercer, New Jersey	Land clearing	Work clothes

- Write one sentence summarizing this photo.

This photo depicts two city girls who are Farmerettes / members of the Women's Land Army who traveled to help a farmer tend his land in the spring by chopping wood and pruning trees.

4. Conceptualize the importance of the image by answering as best you can:

- Who took this photo?

Central News Photo Service

- Where is it from?

Farmer Hankinson's farm in Mercer, New Jersey

- When is it from?

May 1918

- What was happening at the time in history this photo was taken?

America was engaged in World War I and women played a crucial role in the domestic economy with many men away serving overseas in the Armed Forces.

- Why was it taken? List evidence from the photo or your knowledge about the photographer that led you to your conclusion.

The photo was taken to document the transition that many young women across the country made by leaving their studies or other work in cities to become Farmerettes and serve in the Women's Land Army during World War I.

5. Use the image as historical evidence by answering:

- What did you find out from this photo that you might not learn elsewhere?

I learned that girl war farmers were applauded by the farmers they helped as "the best help [they] ever had!"

- What other documents, photos, or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic?

I will use the image sequence number of this photo (165-WW-171-19) to search within the National Archives catalogs for similar images of other Farmerettes. I will also look for other posters or photos about the Women's Land Army, where they served, and what their duties were during World War I.